

Message Text

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S/S - MR.BRIDGES

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TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR

1. CYPRUS AMBASSADOR CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON EUR/SE DIRECTOR APRIL 12 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF VIENNA INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS. THE AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED NO REPORT FROM HIS OWN GOVERNMENT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND SEEMED ANXIOUS TO HAVE ANY NEWS WHICH WENT BEYOND WHAT HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS.

2. DEPTOFF DESCRIBED VIENNA ROUND IN SOME DETAIL AND IN MILDLY OPTIMISTIC TERMS. HE NOTED THAT CONCRETE PROPOSALS HAD FOR FIRST TIME BEEN PLACED ON THE TABLE, AND THAT THESE COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR LATER DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS. WHEREAS PREVIOUS ROUNDS HAD TURNED ON PERIPHERAL OR
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HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS, DISCUSSION THIS TIME WAS DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO TWO KEY QUESTIONS--TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE--WHICH WILL REQUIRE RESOLUTION AS PART OF ANY CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. DEPTOFF ALSO PRAISED COMMITMENTS MADE AND HONORED AT VIENNA BY CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT, AND SAID WE WERE IMPRESSED BY ABILITY AND HOMEWORK OF CYPRIOT NEGOTIATING TEAM.

3. AT SAME TIME, DEPTOFF SAID WE WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT

KIND OF SUSTAINED NEGOTIATIONS WE HAD HOPED FOR HAD NOT DEVELOPED IN VIENNA. PUBLICATION OF MAP AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS BY CYPRUS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. NONETHELESS, WE WERE CONVINCED THAT CLARIFICATION OF AT LEAST THE CONFLICTING GREEK AND TURKISH CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETINGS IN NICOSIA IN MAY, THOUGH A REAL BREAK-THROUGH COULD ONLY OCCUR ONCE THE TURKISH ELECTIONS ARE HELD IN JUNE.

4. CYPRUS AMBASSADOR DID NOT QUARREL WITH THESE CONCLUSIONS, BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT AND GREEK CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS WERE RECONCILABLE. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE KIND OF CONFEDERATION THE TURKS WANTED AND THE STRONG FEDERATION THE GREEKS DESIRED WERE SIMPLY TOO WIDE TO BE BRIDGED. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT NOTHING WOULD BE LOST BY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND REAFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN NICOSIA IN MAY.
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